A SECOND NARRATIVE OF THE Signal Victory

Which it pleased Almighty GOD to bestow

UPON

HIS MAJESTIES NAVY,

UNDER THE COMMAND OF

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS

THE

DUKE of YORK,

AGAINST

The States-Fleet of the *United Neatherlands.*

On the Third of *June* 1665.

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NARRATIVE

of the Signal Victory

UNDER THE COMMAND OF

DUKE of YORK

A SECOND NARRATIVE *of the* SIGNAL VICTORY, &c.

HIS *Royal Highneſs*, after his Return from the Coaſt of *Holland*, where he had lain before the *Texell*, taken their Merchants Ships, and uſed all poſſible means to provoke the *Dutch* to a Battle, having certain Intelligence, not only that the *Dutch Fleet* had taken the Sea, but that they publiquely declared their intentions of ſeeking out the *Engliſh Fleet*; and farther, that the *Good Hope* with her *Convoyes* from *Hamburgh* had unfortunately fallen into their hands, Judging that all theſe Circumſtances might tend to the diſreputation of His Majeſties Affairs, became very impatient of all delayes; and though many of the Proviſions neceſſary for the *Fleet* were not yet on board, His *Royal Highneſs* reſolved to carry the *Fleet* from the *Gunfleet* neer *Harwich* to *Sowld Bay*,

and there to take in the remainder of victuals and other ſtores; that being a more open place, and therefore more proper for going out to the *Dutch*, in caſe they ſhould attempt to make any *Bravado* upon the *Engliſh Coaſt*. In proſecution therefore of that Reſolution, the *Fleet* weighed anchor at high water on the 30 of *May* (carrying with them the *victualling Ships* and other ſtores) the wind being at *South Eaſt*, but it did not long continue ſo, but *veered* to the *Eaſt South-eaſt*, *Eaſt*, and *Eaſt North-eaſt*, ſo that we were forced to ſtop Tydes, and uſing all our endevours we could not arrive at *Sowld Bay* till *June* the *firſt*, about *ſix* in the *morning*, where we anchored about *five* miles from the ſhore.

Between *Twelve* and *One* of the clock this day, his *Royal Highneſs* being at dinner, news was brought that a great *Fleet* was diſcovered, to the *Eaſt*, *South-eaſt* of us, about ſome *ſix leagues* off, which concluding

cluding to be the *Dutch*, his *Royal Highneſs* ordered the *Victuallers* to *Harwich*, and the *Fleet* to *weigh*, and to get farther off the ſhore, which was done accordingly till the Flood; when we came again to an Anchor, the *Dutch* kept under Sail, and endevoured to keep to the *South-eaſt*, and *Eaſt South-eaſt* of us; At *Ten* of the clock *that night*, we weighed Anchor again, the wind being at *Eaſt*; We did our beſt to get up to the *Dutch Fleet*, but they being to windward of us, it did not depend upon our choice, ſo that the *Dutch* keeping upon a wind, in the *morning*, *June* 2. we ſaw them about *five leagues South-eaſt* from us, the wind varying from the *South-eaſt*, to *South South-eaſt*, *South*, and *South South-weſt*. At *eight* in the *evening Leſtoffe* bore *North-weſt* about *eight Leagues* off, and the *Dutch Fleet* was then about 3 *leagues* off, ſtanding off with their *Starboard* Tacks on *board*, and we ſtood after them, but they ſtaid not for us. There

There was a great deſire in the *Fleet* to have engaged the *Dutch this day*, which had *twelve years ſince* been ſo fortunate to the *Engliſh* againſt the *ſame enemy*; what other reaſon, beſides the ill fortune of that day, the *Dutch* could have to decline the fighting us, then when they might have had the wind of us, we can neither conjecture, nor learn from any of the Priſoners ſince taken; *This evening* one of the Enemies *Sternmoſt ſhips* was *fired*, ſome of our men perſwaded themſelves it was one of their *Admirals*, but we ſince underſtand by Priſoners, it was one of their *Fireſhips*, which took fire before her time by the drunkenneſs of her Commander: What ever it was, our men believed the beſt, and as it was no ſmall joy to ſee an Enemies ſhip ſo eaſily deſtroyed, ſo they took it for a *good omen* of a *future victory*.

This night we kept ſight of the Enemy

all

all night, and the wind *veering* to the *South-weſt*, between *two* and *three* of the clock in the *morning*, *June* 3. we lay to *weather* of the *Dutch Fleet*, which they perceiving, tacked and ſtood with us, but could not *weather* us; Being as we ſuppoſe about *fourteen leagues* from *Leſtoffe South-eaſt ſoutherly*. At half an hour paſt *three* in the *morning* the Battle began: *Prince Rupert's Squadron* having the *Van*, and of that Squadron *Vice-Admiral Mings*; His *Royal Highneſſe's* Squadron was in the *body*, and that of the Earl of *Sandwich* in the *Rear*; The firſt ſalutes the *Dutch* received from *Prince Rupert's* Squadron, (animated by the example aſwell as orders of that valiant Prince) made them doubt whether the victory over the *Engliſh* were either ſo certain, or ſo eaſie, as the *Heere de Witt*, and their other Country-men who were to ſtay at home, had perſwaded them; *Both Fleets* having paſſed

ſed thus by one the other in a Line, there was for a conſiderable time a perfect quiet without ſhooting one Gun; About *ſix* of the clock, we tacked, and ſtood to the *Weſt, North-weſt*, and they to the *South, South-eaſt*, and paſſed by one the other, there being again an intermiſſion from ſhooting; Upon this *Tack*, the *Dutch* endevoured to get the wind of us, which they hoped to have done, which his *Royal Highneſs* foreſeeing they would endevour, kept ſo cloſe to the wind, that when *the Dutch tacked*, hoping to *weather Prince Rupert*, they found his *Royal Highneſs* to *weather* them, and therefore rather then paſs between *two* Lines of our *Fleet*, they choſe to bear to *Leeward* of *Prince Rupert*; We ſtood not long that way, but his *Royal Highneſs* ordered the *Rear* of His *Majeſties Fleet* to *tack* firſt, that ſo we might the better and ſooner get up with the *headmoſt* of *their Fleet*.

This

This was not done without ſome intermixture of the Ships of the ſeveral Squadrons; but yet without any conſiderable prejudice. This being executed, his *Royal Highneſs* making Sail with his *Squadron*, he came to be the *Headmoſt Squadron* of the Line, and had Sir *John Lauſon*, with ſome other Ships of his Squadron a head of him, with which keeping up to the *Headmoſt* of the *Enemies* Ships, we kept them to *Leeward* of us, and never ſuffered them to tack, but kept the wind of them the whole day. The Fight continued long, and the *Dutch* made very conſiderable reſiſtance: but it was obſerved, That as we bore in upon them, they altered their courſe, ſo that whereas they might have layn up *South South Eaſt*, they bore off to the *Eaſt South Eaſt*. His *Royal Highneſs* who had obſerv'd in the beginning of the Battel, the endeavour of the *Dutch* to get the Wind, and by what means it was prevented, and alſo the great benefit we had by it, by ſecuring us againſt the *Enemies Fire-Ships*, (in which they had placed a great part of their hopes) had always a regard to the keeping that advantage which God had ſo favourably given us; which with the concurrence of another accident did ſomewhat prolong the *Battel*. The continual Smoak would not give

us leave to ſee very far before us what the Enemy did; and therefore the Actions of *Others*, were in ſome meaſure to be the guide even of the *Admiral*: his *Royal Highneſs* therefore having ſeen Sir *John Lauſon* with his accuſtomed Valour bear in towards the Enemies Line, but ſoon after to edge off again to Windward, concluded that Sir *John Lauſon* had ſeen ſome of the Enemies Ships endeavouring to get the Wind of us, and therefore to prevent That, his *Royal Highneſs* kept near the Wind, which was a guide to the vvhole Fleet. But this miſtake vvas underſtood a little while after, by a Meſſage from Sir *John Lauſon*, who privately ſent to give his *Royal Highneſs* an accompt *that he was hurt*, and for that time uncapable of ſervice, *(though, thanks be to God, without danger of life)* ſo that we perceived the Working *his Ship* which lead us into that Errour, *was through the want of their Commander*, the Maſter being alſo hurt. His *Royal Highneſs* therefore ordered Captain *Jordan* to go on board the *Royal Oak*; after which *She* did excellent good ſervice. This Errour being now perceived, and about the ſame time *Opdams* Ship (vvhich vvas known by a *Pendant* under his *Flagg*) coming up to lie almoſt oppoſite *in their Line* to his *Royal Highneſs*

neſs Ship in *Ours*; His *Royal Highneſs* vvas pleaſed to give command to bear up to Him, ſaying, *He would himſelf have a Bout with* Opdam, (for ſo he termed it.) In which being obey'd, and the whole Fleet taking example by the working of His *Royal Highneſs* Ship, we began to ply our Guns at ſo near a diſtance, that the Enemy began to ſhrink apace, though not abſolutely to run. Whilſt things were in this condition, it pleaſed God (who had through the whole Conduct of this great Buſineſs wonderfully favoured us) by an extraordinary operation of his Almighty Hand to facilitate our Work, and to ſhorten the danger to which his *Royal Highneſs* had reſolved to expoſe his own Perſon, by the *blowing up* of *Opdams Ship*; which as it was a great joy to the *Engliſh*, ſo it could not but infinitely diſcourage the *Enemy*, who did not ſtand long after, but (we bearing in upon them) preſently fled, we following them, and taking and burning their Ships until night; when not being able to do any more ſervice upon them, we onely endeavoured to keep ſo much ſight of them, as to be up with them in the morning, when we again followed the purſuit (taking divers of their Ships) unto the very mouth of the *Texel*, where their Ships getting

into Shoal water, and being perfectly acquainted with the place, we durſt not adventure ſo near the ſhore with our Ships, which were not in condition to bear much Sail, if there ſhould have been need for bringing them off again. We ſtaid in ſight of the *Texel* till we ſaw their Ships go in; which they did not neglect to do the firſt Tyde.

In the beginning of the Battel, two of our Ships, not being able to *weather* the *Enemy*, fell into their Fleet; the *One* (which was the *Charity*, a Ship taken from the *Dutch* in the laſt war) tacked, hoping thereby to help her ſelf, but was taken; the *Other* a *Merchant Ship* in the Kings ſervice, called the *John and Abigail*. Captain *Joſeph Saunders Commander* finding himſelf amongſt them, reſolved to ſtand the ſame way with our own Fleet, and to receive the Enemies Broadſides, which he had ſo near, as with them to receive their Threats alſo, and was honoured with a Broadſide from *Opdams* own Ship, and a *Vice-Admiral*, betwixt which he lay: but the Enemy was too much in haſte to attend one ſingle Ship; ſo that with a conſiderable loſs of Men, and the battering of his *Ship*, *Maſts*, *Rigging* and *Sails*, he came ſafe to his Majeſties Fleet. During the Battel, there came in to us three of his *Majeſties Ships* returned from the

Sound,

Sound, as alſo the *Leopard* from *Harwich*: To the *Dutch* came *young Everſon* with *three Ships*.

To give an account of the particular Actions of his Majeſties Commanders, would be not onely tedious, but prove injurious to many, whoſe merits would ſeem leſs if not named; nor would it be leſs injurious to all thoſe who have done well, (if any Actions were to be particularized) not to name (with reproach) thoſe who have been wanting to their Duty. Let it therefore ſuffice for an evidence of the bravery of his Majeſties Commanders in general, that the *Invincible Dutch Fleet* is by them *overcome*; Though I will not conceal from you, that I hear it ſaid, his *Royal Highneſs* doth not think it ſufficient that they do better then the *Dutch*, but will expect that they ſhall do as becometh *Engliſh-men*; and therefore it is thought this occaſion having made ſome diſcovery of the tempers of ſome men, who could not be known before, ſome *alterations* will be even amongſt the *Victorious*. For the generality of the *Engliſh Seamen*, it is certain, that greater or more valiant hearts are not to be found in any Race of Men, nor more indefatigable; of which a greater inſtance could not be, then this Battel, which was of ſuch continuance, that if ſeparated from the *labour*, the *danger* alone would have been inſupportable to any other ſort of men; and perhaps would have been ſo to them alſo, had not the danger awakened their courages, and redonbled their ſpirits.

Having told you of a Ship of his Majeſties loſt; if I ſhould give over here, you might think We had loſt by the Victory; and therefore it is neceſſary to give you ſome account of

of the *Enemies Loſs*, and *Our Gain*; which nevertheles, in the preſent uncertainty, you muſt give me leave to do as Accomptants uſe, with a *reſerve* of (*errors excepted*) endeavouring notwithſtanding, ſo far as maybe, to tell you nothing for certain which is not ſo. Firſt, Then you muſt know that beſides *Opdam*'s Ship (which we ſaw blown up, and beſides have ſince ſpoken with ſome of the Men which were ſaved) There was taken, and afterwards fired (that ſo ſhe might not clog us in the purſuit) the *Orange Tree*, a Ship of 76. *Guns*. There were afterwards *four* of their Ships, in the purſuit, fell foul the one of the other, and were by one of his Majeſties *Fire Ships* ſet on fire; One of them was the Ship *Couverden*, in which was *Trumps Vice Admiral*, *Gillis Tyſſe Campen*, carrying 60. *Guns*; The *Prince Maurice*, *Cap. de Clerk*, carrying 50. *Guns*; The *Stadt Utrecht*, *Cap. Oudart*, 44. *Guns*; And a fourth, which was, I think, called the *Stedan*, carrying about 40. *Guns*: After theſe were all on fire, and our Ships paſſed by, one of them burning to her Pouder, blew up, and with the blaſt, blew away all the *Rigging*, *Maſts*, &c. of one of them of about 40. *Guns*, which was on fire, and ſo enabled ſome of the *Dutch*, who remained there

to

to quench the fire, and ſave the Ship, at leſt to preſerve their own lives till ſome of their Ships paſſed that way; but whether they towed Her into Harbour, or not, we know not: An accident very extraordinary, and which it was not reaſonable to expect or provide againſt; This was obſerved by ſome of the Boats and Ketches which were ſent to ſave the lives of the poor men, who were left to the two unmerciful Elements. A little after this, were likewiſe burned by another Fire-Ship, three Ships, which were faln foul one of another, the one called the *Maſſeeven*, *Jacob Rouſe Commander*, of 78 *Guns*; the *Tergoes*, of 24 *Guns*; and *Cap. Cuypers* Ship of 30 *Guns*.

Of Ships taken, I am not able to give you a perfect account, in regard ſome are (as we hear) gone directly for *England*, and others not yet come to the Fleet: Some of the Ships taken, Are,

The	*Mars*,	46	Guns.
	Zeeland,	44	
	Carolus Quintus,	53	
	Delft,	32	
	Nagelboome,	52	

We hear of others taken by other Ships, of which we have not the Names, but do conclude, we have deſtroyed them 23, or 24 Men of *War*, at the leaſt; by the next you ſhall have a more perfect account.

Accor-

According to what we learn from the Priſoners, there were ſlain of the *Dutch Commanders* of note (beſides *Opdam*) *Cortenaer*, *Stellingwerf*, *Schram*; & (moſt ſay) *Trump*: but for the certainty of this, the Curious muſt expect Letters from *Holland*.

On Our Part, were ſlain the *Earl* of *Marlebrough*, *Rear Admiral Sanſum*, *Captain Ableſon*, & *Captain Kirbye*, *Commanders*: Of *Voluntiers* of Note, fell the *Earl* of *Portland*, *Earl* of *Falmouth*, *Lord Muſkerry*, and Mr. *Boyle*, ſecond Son to the *Earl* of *Burlington*. (The three *laſt* by *one fatal ſhot*.) I cannot find that the *Dutch Commanders taken*, can give any exact account of the number of ſhips in their Fleet; that which they ſeem moſt perſwaded of is, That they had about 108 *Sail* beſides *Fire-Ships*; I believe the Kings Fleet was within very few of an 100 *Sail*; a force worthy on either ſide to contend for ſo great a Stake.

The number of Men *killed* and *taken* from the *Dutch*, I conjecture may be about 8000. What the number on the ſide of the *Engliſh* are, I have not yet heard computed; but by the conjectures vvhich may be raiſed from the accompt of ſome of the Ships which were in the hotteſt of the Action, it may be concluded, that never was ſo great a Victory obtained againſt the *Dutch*, with ſo ſmall loſs on the ſide of the *Engliſh*.

Finis.

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